



FEMA

Fact Sheet

National Capital Region

In 2002, the Office of National Capital Region Coordination (NCRC) was established by the Public Law 107-296, Sec. 882, the Homeland Security Act of 2002, to coordinate homeland security activities relating to the National Capital Region (NCR). NCRC was created in response to the unique coordination challenges facing the NCR because of the Region's large federal presence, including Congress, the Judiciary, the more than 270 federal agencies, and the intersection between Maryland, Virginia, and the District of Columbia. Specifically, the Act gave NCRC the responsibility of:

- Overseeing and coordinating federal programs for and relationships with state, local, and regional authorities in the NCR;
- Coordinating the activities of the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) relating to the NCR;
- Providing state, local, and regional authorities in the NCR with information, research and technical support to assist in efforts to secure the homeland, and coordinating with these authorities and the private sector on terrorism preparedness efforts to ensure adequate planning, information sharing, training, and execution of domestic preparedness activities;
- Develop a process for receiving meaningful input from state, local, and regional authorities and the private sector in the NCR to assist in the development of the homeland security plans and activities of the federal government; and
- Serving as a liaison between the federal government and state, local, and regional authorities and the private sector in the NCR to facilitate access to federal grants and other programs.

As a result of this Congressional mandate, NCRC's daily activities involve extensive interaction with representatives of federal, state, local, and regional authorities and private and non-profit sectors in order to enhance the many homeland security efforts underway in the NCR.

Office History

- March 2003 – Functions dedicated to the NCR within the White House Office of Homeland Security transitioned to the new DHS and NCRC, as now known, began operations as a component within the Office of the Secretary;
- July 2005 – The Secretary of DHS announced the results of the Second Stage Review, which resulted in the transitioning of NCRC and other DHS components to the new DHS Preparedness Directorate;
- April 2007 – As a result of the Post-Katrina Emergency Management Reform Act, NCRC and other DHS components transitioned to the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA); NCRC would report directly to the FEMA Administrator;

Mission and Priorities

Provide leadership in integrating homeland security efforts across the NCR.

- Regional governance and coordination by supporting a regional governance structure and collaboration with NCR senior leadership on homeland security and preparedness activities.
- Federal participation and integration in the NCR by developing and implementing the NCR Federal Coordination Center (FCC) to enhance situational





awareness, planning and response capabilities; provide leadership for the Joint Federal Committee and administer the Federal Emergency Managers and Federal First Responders Subcommittees; and coordinating Federal homeland security planning activities.

- Catastrophic planning in the NCR by coordinating ongoing regional and national planning and preparedness efforts, including participation in the Regional Emergency Support Function (R-ESF) structure in the Region; organization, preparation, and participation in training and exercises within the NCR, as well as national-level exercises; and supporting the execution of the Federal role in regional planning and response efforts.
- Regional-level risk-based capability development by developing a regional risk approach and forward national dialogue on national, state, local, and regional risk analysis; improve functional and technical interoperability, including communications, credentialing, operations center coordination and chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear and explosive protocols; and enhance critical infrastructure protection measures in collaboration with federal, state, and local entities.

Major Accomplishments

- NCRC worked with state and local partners to develop a regional governance structure for creating and implementing homeland security policies in the Region. Representing the DHS Secretary and FEMA Administrator, the Director of NCRC serves as a member of the NCR Senior

Policy Group along with the Homeland Security Advisors and Chief Emergency Managers of the District of Columbia, Maryland, and Virginia. NCRC works regularly with the NCR's Chief Administrative Officers, the Emergency Preparedness Council, R-ESF Committees, and Regional Programmatic Working Groups (RPWGs), among other entities.

- NCRC initiated and led the development of the NCR FCC to enable unity of effort, provide decision support, facilitate information sharing, and enhance regional situational awareness and integrated planning. During the 2009 Presidential Inauguration, the NCR FCC interfaced with state and local agencies and demonstrated the Integrated Situational Awareness Visualization Environment, a state-of-the-art situational awareness platform that provides a real-time comprehensive operational picture in the NCR, integrating real-time information and communications (voice and data) from disparate sources, to include federal, state, and local entities.
- NCRC works with state, local, and regional authorities to enhance catastrophic planning through active participation in NCR entities such as R-ESF Committees and RPWGs, and integrates federal agencies into regional planning. NCRC also works to strengthen efforts such as sheltering, mass care, and evacuation planning in coordination with FEMA Region III and, per congressional direction, Pennsylvania and West Virginia.
- With input from federal, state, local, and private sector partners and in collaboration with the Office of Risk Management and Analysis,

FEMA leads and supports the nation in a risk-based, comprehensive emergency management system of preparedness, protection, response, recovery, and mitigation, to reduce the loss of life and property and protect the nation from all hazards including natural disasters, acts of terrorism, and other man-made disasters.





NCRC developed the National Capital Region Strategic Hazards Identification and Evaluation for Leadership Decisions (NCR SHIELD) initiative. This regional risk analysis aids NCR leaders in evaluating terrorism and natural hazard risks, as well as options to mitigate and manage risks. NCR SHIELD supports regional guidance on grant submissions, and assists state and local leadership in refining proposed investment themes to enhance preparedness and mitigate risks within the NCR.

- To enhance multi-jurisdictional interoperability, NCRC worked with state and local partners to establish secure communications among NCR operations centers. NCRC also aided in the development of the Metro Chief Information Officers Interoperability Committee and related efforts, facilitating the NCR's achievement of the highest possible rating on the 2007 DHS Interoperability Scorecard, one of only three Urban Areas to do so.
- At the request of federal, state, and local partners, NCRC coordinated the development of a smart identity card system for emergency response officials. This initiative leveraged pre-existing technology and standards to provide a common credentialing process that allows federal and mutual aid emergency response officials (F/EROs) to move through multiple jurisdictions with greater ease in the event of incident. NCRC's approach was adopted by FEMA after the passage of Public Law 110-53, Implementing the 9/11 Commission Recommendation Act of 2007, which requires the FEMA Administrator to define a Federal Preparedness standard for credentialing and

typing of all F/EROs, to establish a Federal Preparedness database system for real-time accountability and awareness of the Federal Preparedness force, and provide wrote guidance, expertise and technical assistance to federal, state, local and tribal government agencies to enable multi-jurisdictional interoperability for emergency usage.

Key Points of Contact

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